

**ABSTRACT****A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR VERTICAL  
PERIMETER PROTECTION**

5       Embodiments of the present invention include a method for processing  
packets through a plurality of protocol layers comprising accessing a packet  
associated with a connection and processing the packet through the plurality of  
protocol layers using a single thread wherein connection state information used  
by the plurality of protocol layers is preserved by mutual exclusion of other  
10 threads processing packets for the connection through the plurality of protocol  
layers.